

FMCSA OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY THIRD ANNUAL TRB FORUM OPENING REMARKS

Presented by FMCSA Acting Administrator Annette Sandberg

- In my short tenure as Acting Administrator of the FMCSA, I have already learned that this agency has tremendous potential. As it celebrates its third birthday, it has grown and matured. I intend to develop the agency's full potential in meeting its safety and security goals and objectives.
- I come to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration with a wide range of experience in both the private and public sectors. Earlier in my career, I practiced law in a private practice.
- Later, over a period of 17 years, I developed a passion for highway safety through my experience in a variety of law enforcement, supervisory and administrative roles with the Washington State Patrol.
- At all points in my career, I learned the value of networking and building partnerships. I've dealt with state legislatures, local governments, state governors, chiefs of police, academia, trade associations and professional societies as well as a litany of businesses and related industries. I've built lasting relationships with people within those organizations and I continually encourage others to do the same.
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- Today's Forum presents a firsthand view of the good work the Office of Research and Technology and other organizations within FMCSA are doing to build new partnerships and expand existing relationships to meet the safety and security goals of the agency.
- I strongly support partnerships and I will promote the leveraging of partnerships beyond established relationships and traditional roles. In this regard, we have unlimited opportunities and that's where I want to take this agency.
- However, we need and will continue to seek your guidance and counsel. We will continue to rely on the feedback and input of those whom we serve. And we will listen.
- Therefore, we turn to you-our customers, stakeholders and partners-to ensure that our continuing involvement in motor carrier safety research, our investments in new and emerging safety technologies, and our focus on security measures to support and protect the mobility of this nation's goods and people moves the entire country in the right direction.
- Our goal is to ensure that the carrier industry and the state agencies responsible for carrier enforcement have all the necessary safety and security tools to do their respective jobs. Safety means reducing crashes and fatalities, saving lives and protecting the transportation system from terrorist incidents. We take our responsibility for this very seriously.
- Now let me turn for a moment to some items of broad interest to you.
- FMCSA has worked extensively and exhaustively over the past year to produce the best possible outcome for reauthorization.
- There has been an outstanding effort by FMCSA staff to maximize the agency's position for reauthorization and I

want to commend them for their work and diligence. We have done everything we can possibly do to respond to sources internally and externally to provide clear and accurate information that will posture us for the future.

- As you know, a number of rulemakings are in process at FMCSA and I assure you I am personally involved in reviewing the relevance, timeliness, progress and status of each and every one to assure that we're focused on the right things and that we'll make a positive difference to commercial vehicle safety and compliance.
- As most of you know, the U.S. DOT announced recently that our formal external advisory relationship with ITS America will change in March when the current term ends. We are participating with the other DOT modal administrations to develop a charter for a new advisory committee to support the Intelligent Transportation Systems program and the U.S. DOT in general.
- The Department recognizes that ITS America has played an important part in the many successes that have been achieved by the ITS program and the U.S. DOT. This step is a natural and appropriate evolution and the Department still expects to have an important ongoing relationship with them as this transition occurs. We are fortunate to have Dr. Walton with us this morning who is the current Chair of the ITS America Board of Directors.
- In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning and to participate in this important Forum. As you listen to the other speakers, think about how you and/or your organization can work with FMCSA to help us achieve our safety and security goals. Ask questions. Get involved. Get to know the staff. They will be able to provide more detail on opportunities for collaboration within the motor carrier community.
- And keep in mind, we need to move forward together because success depends on our combined, unrelenting focus, experience-and, frankly, budgets-to meet our many challenges and accomplish our mutual safety and security goals. Thank you.